Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAB-01

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R 131508Z JUL 76 FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8568

CONFIDENTIAL DAMASCUS 4556

FOR SEELYE FROM MURPHY

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINT LE SUBJ: AUH

- 1. AS YOU ARE AWARE, WE HAVE HAD GOOD LUCK SO FAR IN SENDING SUPPLIES TO YOU IN OUR TRUCK AND EXCELLENT COOPERATION FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH INCLUDING FACILITATING THE PURCHASE BY AUH DRIVER OF BLOOD HANDLING SUPPLIES FROM SYRIAN ARMY STOCKS. IN THE MINISTER'S CASE, THERE IS A DEEP WELL OF GOODWILL FOR AUH ON WHICH WE CAN CONTINUE TO DRAW. THE MINISTERS OF ECONOMY AND TRANSPORT HAVE BEEN SIMILARLY COOPERATIVE.
- 2. I WANT TO FLAG, HOWEVER, MY CONCERN ABOUT THE POSSIBLE RPT POSSIBLE IMPACT ON THE SYRIAN LEADERSHIP OF STORIES THAT AUH IS PERFORCE HAVING TO FAVOR PALESTINIAN AND LEFTIST FIGHTERS OVER ALL OTHER WAR VICTIMS. PATIENT ADMISSIONS ARE ALLEGEDLY BEING DONE UNDER THE GUNS OF FEDAYEEN GUARDS STATIONED AT THE HOSPITAL WHO HAVE, ACCORDING TO SOME REPORTS, EXCLUDED THE SERIOUSLY ILL AND/OR INJURED WHO DO NOT FIT INTO THE PALESTINIAN/LEFTIST CATEGORIES.

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3. I DOUBT ANY SYRIAN WOULD SERIOUSLY TRY TO ARGUE WITH

US THAT FOREGOING REPRESENTED HOSPITAL POLICY. BUT I WOULD FIND IT MOST VALUABLE IF YOU COULD GET FROM DR ASPER SOME FACTS ABOUT RECENT PATIENT WORKLOAD WHICH WE CAN USE TO BAT DOWN ANY SUCH STORIES THAT AUH HAS BEEN TURNED INTO JUST A FIELD HOSPITAL FOR PALESTINIAN AND LEFTIST FIGHTERS.

MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: HOSPITALS, CIVIL DISORDERS, CASUALTIES

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 13 JUL 1976 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED

Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DAMASC04556

Document Number: 1976DAMASC04556 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Film Number: D760270-0183 From: DAMASCUS Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760765/aaaacfer.tel Line Count: 68

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION NEA Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: n/a

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: ElyME

Review Content Flags: Review Date: 16 JUN 2004

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 OCT 2004 by ElyME>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MÁY 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE Subject: AUH TAGS: PINT, LE To: BEIRUT

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006